

22-003  
no. 12  
1934  
Aug. 22  
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Published by Authority of the HON. H. H. STEVENS, M. P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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AUG 24 1934  
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FRUIT REPORT NO. 3.

Ottawa, August 22, 1934. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Provincial Departments of Agriculture to-day issued a report showing the condition of fruit crops in Canada and preliminary estimates of 1934 production.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. - During the month of August showers have been frequent and generally sufficient moisture has been received for growing fruits. Some effects of July drought are observed however. The heavy winter-killing of apple and plum trees in Prince Edward Island is commented upon by correspondents. Orchards that are being well cared for report little damage from insects or disease.

NOVA SCOTIA. - Reports received from Nova Scotia comment favourably upon recent development of the apple crop. The month of June was very dry but rains received in mid-July greatly improved the outlook. During the past month weather conditions have been favourable and in general sufficient moisture and helpful temperatures were reported. Hail storms on August 5 damaged the apple crop in some districts but the extent of the loss from this cause is not known at the present time. Due to favourable weather conditions and thorough spraying pests and disease are being kept at a minimum. Apples are sizing well and warm days and cool nights are colouring the fruit. The effects of winter injury are apparent in some localities.

NEW BRUNSWICK. - The drought which hindered crop development early in the growing season was ended late in July and since that time moisture supplies have been sufficient to carry the apple crop. Disease and pests are well controlled in properly tended orchards. There is considerable evidence of damage caused as a result of the severe winter. Apples are sizing and colouring well and are overcoming the results of drought during July.

QUEBEC. - Drought that prevailed in the last fortnight of July and beginning of August has visibly reduced crop prospects. In the meantime, severe wind storms with hail, have caused local damage in districts 6 and 7. Scabs and insects are well under control in commercial orchards. Fire blight is spreading and quite a large increase in the number of trees affected is reported. During last week, precipitation slightly improved the conditions. In general, fruits are developing normally.

The forecast for the apple crop, based on actual conditions, are as follows:

Commercial production: 132,000 barrels, as compared to 306,500 barrels in 1933.  
Family Orchards: 100,000 " " " " 224,000 " " "

There will be found below a table showing the forecast of the apple crop by districts of the province and by variety, expressed in percentage of the crop of 1933.

FORECAST OF THE APPLE CROP, BY DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE AND BY VARIETY,  
expressed in percentage of the crop for 1933.

	Province of Quebec	Lower St. Lawrence	Quebec	Three Rivers	Eastern Townships	South-east of Montreal	Montreal Island & Ottawa River Valley
All apples .....	43	80	56	43	20	43	42
McIntosh .....	40	60	52	-	20	37	48
Wealthy .....	54	90	75	-	30	52	47
Fameuse .....	33	70	56	-	20	32	39
Duchess & Yellow Transparent ....	82	80	70	-	70	88	57
Other varieties .	30	60	70	-	25	27	30



ONTARIO. - In the southern part of western Ontario dry weather and high temperatures have retarded the sizing of apples but recent rains will improve the situation. Where winter injury was severe, trees showed increased mortality during the drought. Insects are quite numerous, and especially the codling moth. Very little scab is in evidence.

In the Georgian Bay apple-growing district the weather has been generally favourable to development of fruit. In some orchards serious damage from sideworm is reported. In central Ontario apples are sizing fairly well in the western half but in the eastern portion apples are on the small side. A number of orchards in Northumberland received no rain from July 12th to August 12th. There is very little scab but considerable sideworm infestation even in well sprayed orchards.

Early varieties of apples, which account for around 25 per cent of the commercial apple crop in Ontario, yielded an almost average crop. The production of late varieties is most severely reduced due to winter killing of most exceptional proportions and to frost damage at blossom time. The estimated commercial production of apples in Ontario shows no change from a month ago being 320,600 barrels this year as compared with 1,068,700 barrels in 1933. Exports of apples from Ontario, which attained a record volume of more than 500,000 barrels last season, are not expected to exceed 75,000 barrels this season. Prices received for early varieties were considerably higher than last year and were in good demand. The price of certain varieties of late apples is expected to lift these varieties out of the export picture this season and it is possible that, depending on the domestic price situation, exports from Ontario may be considerably below 75,000 barrels.

In eastern Ontario orchards show a greater falling-off in production than in western Ontario. Many orchards which bore heavily last year have practically no apples this year, while a large number of these orchards were almost completely winter-killed. A great many orchards were planted out in recent years and these are now reaching bearing age. On this account the production of apples in Ontario may within several years reach the output of last year. Estimates from our fruit correspondents indicate that Baldwins will show an 85 per cent reduction in output from last year; Spys a 60 per cent reduction; Greenings a decrease of 65 per cent; Starks a decline of 50 per cent; Ben Davis a reduction of 85 per cent and MacIntosh 34 per cent below last year.

Pear and plum orchards suffered very heavy winter-killing in central and eastern Ontario and the yield shows a very heavy falling off from last year. In Halton and Peel and around Burlington the pear crop is very light but in the Niagara district the crop is fairly heavy. Beyond a slight infestation of blight in some localities, all varieties are making good clean growth. Estimated production on the 15th of August was placed at the same figure as a month earlier, being 222,600 bushels, a reduction of 25 per cent from the 296,765 bushels produced in 1933. Plums on heavier soils and exposed locations were affected by heat and drought. Japanese varieties are somewhat below normal in size but the crop is greater than last year. The total plum yield is estimated at 66,400 bushels against 132,780 last year, a diminution of 50 per cent.

Peaches are sizing well and are exceptionally free of pest injuries. Trees continue to show winter injury and more will die than indicated earlier. West of Beamsville the peach crop is very small, while east of this point the yield will be fairly good. Total output is estimated at 337,400 bushels compared with 749,850 bushels in 1933.

Red and white varieties of grapes will be a very short crop owing to the large extent of freezing back which occurred in these varieties. The roots, however, were not hurt and the vines will bear next year. Blue grapes promise an average yield. Owing to the good spraying practice being carried out, the hopper damage has been chiefly confined to graperies where spraying was not well done. The general growth of vines and fruit is good. Total production is placed at 36,449,600 pounds against 41,420,000 pounds in 1933.

A very heavy rainstorm passed over the western part of the province on August 19th and will prove of inestimable value in sizing the fruit. Unfortunately the wind caused a large amount of damage to the small fruits in the Niagara belt. Between Hamilton and Grimsby Beach early reports indicated that as high as 25 per cent of the pear and plum crop fell off the trees. The loss west of Grimsby Beach is not believed to have been as great. Peaches were not affected to the same extent as pears and plums.



British Columbia

Favourable weather conditions have been experienced in British Columbia during the past month. Good rains were received during the first week in August followed by hot dry weather. All tree fruits are sizing and colouring well. Peaches, pears and plums are moving and Wealthy apples are commencing to move. It is estimated that 1934 production of apples will slightly exceed production in 1933. Production of pears, peaches, plums and prunes, and apricots will be heavier than last year.

Preliminary Estimates of Production

Nova Scotia

	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
Apples (barrels)	2,438,000	1,600,000

New Brunswick

Apples (barrels)	65,000	34,000
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Quebec

Apples (barrels)	306,500	132,000
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Ontario

Apples (barrels)	1,068,700	320,610
Peaches (bushels)	749,850	337,425
Plums and Prunes (bushels)	132,780	66,390
Pears (bushels)	296,765	222,574

British Columbia

Apples (boxes)	4,647,640	4,765,575
Pears (bushels)	161,020	168,216
Plums and Prunes (bushels)	81,579	112,622
Peaches (bushels)	52,398	100,700
Apricots (bushels)	22,841	100,220

Canada

Apples (barrels)	5,349,800	3,596,591
Pears (bushels)	469,785	390,790
Plums and Prunes (bushels)	226,859	179,012
Peaches (bushels)	802,248	438,125
Apricots (bushels)	22,841	100,220

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